

**MODEL CONSTITUTION**  
**FOR**  
**NEW CHURCHES:**  
**ADOPTED BY THE SYNOD**  
**OF THE**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA,**  
**IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,**  
**13th SEPTEMBER, 1847.**

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*At Toronto, the 13th day of September,  
1847 years :—*

The which day, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, met, according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

*Inter alia,—*

The Synod called for Reports upon the Model Constitution which were given in. Thereafter, the Synod had read the said Constitution, clause by clause, and amended the same. The Synod then adopted the Constitution as now revised and amended,—and enjoin Presbyteries not to receive any congregation into the Church till they have solemnly adopted this Constitution.

**MÔDEL CONSTITUTION FOR NEW CHURCHES.**

I. The property of the Church, and all real estate belonging to, or that may hereafter be acquired by, this Congregation, shall be vested in Trustees, to be held by them and their successors in office, in Trust for the sole and proper use of the congregation of ———, adhering to the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland.

II. The Trustees shall be persons in full communion with the Church, or who shall declare their intention of being so at the earliest opportunity. They shall be elected at a meeting of the congregation called for the purpose by public intimation after Divine service, on at least one Sabbath, ten days previous to the day of meeting. They shall be chosen by the majority of votes of the male persons present, of the full

age of Twenty-one years, who are members, or adherents, of this Church, and profess their intention to support religion in this congregation, and who reside within the bounds of the same.

III. The Trustees shall hold office until disqualified by removal from the congregation or by ceasing to be members of the Church, or until they shall resign. Vacancies occurring in the number of Trustees shall be supplied at a meeting called in the manner specified in the preceding section.

IV. The persons who shall be eligible for the Office of the Ministry in this congregation shall be,—1. Any regularly ordained Minister, or duly licensed Probationer of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland.—2. Any Minister or Probationer of the Church of Scotland.—3. Any Minister or Probationer of any Presbyterian Body holding the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, who shall be willing to take the usual ordination vows and obey the Laws and Rules of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland; and who shall have been received as a Preacher by the Presbytery of the bounds; it being always understood that such Minister or Preacher shall have undergone such course of education, Literary, Scientific and Theological, as is now, or may hereafter be, required by the Synod, or other Supreme Court of this Church.

V. The Minister of this Church shall be a member of the Synod, or other Supreme Court, of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, and shall acknowledge that Synod, or other Supreme Court, as his Supreme Ecclesiastical Judicatory, so long as he shall continue to be Minister of this Church.

VI. The first Minister shall be called by a majority of votes of all male persons above Twenty-one years of age who shall be resident within the bounds of the congregation, and who profess their adherence to the Presbyterian form of worship and their willingness to join with and support this Church. But in all future calls there shall be a majority of male communicants, of at least three months standing on the Roll, and free of Church censure, in order to render the call valid.

VII. All meetings for the election of a Minister shall be called by authority of the Presbytery, by public intimation after Divine Service, on at least one Sabbath ten days previous to the day of meeting; and all the procedure shall be in accordance with the Laws and usages of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, and such regulations as the Presbytery of the bounds may adopt, agreeably to the said Laws and usages.

VIII. The temporal affairs of the Church shall be managed by a

Committee of not less than Five fit and proper persons, who shall be members or adherents, and who shall be styled the Managers of the Temporal affairs of the congregation. The manner of election shall be as in Article II.—A majority shall be a quorum.

IX. At the annual meeting of the congregation, the two senior Managers, or the two whose names stand highest on the list, shall retire from office, and the meeting shall choose two in their room, whose names shall be placed at the foot of the list. The retiring Managers may be re-elected.

X. Any Manager who shall leave the bounds of the congregation, or cease to be a member of the Church, shall be disqualified for holding office. Casual vacancies occurring during the year, from these or any other causes, shall be temporarily supplied by the remaining Managers until the annual meeting, when the nomination shall be confirmed, or set aside, as it may seem proper to the congregation.

XI. The duties of the Managers shall be :—to take care of the Church, and all buildings belonging to the congregation :—to attend to the repairs, insurance, cleaning, warming and lighting of the Church, and the providing of all things necessary for the decent and orderly performance of Divine Worship :—to see to the due support of the Minister, to arrange with him in regard to the amount of stipend, and the times and mode of payment, and to sign engagements, if necessary, in name and on behalf of the congregation :—and to provide ways and means for raising the amount required for the Minister's support, and the other necessary expenses of the Church :—for which purpose they shall have power to let the seats in the Church, to fix the rent, appoint the time and manner of letting, and the times and mode of payment.

XII. The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held on —. It shall be notified by public intimation, after Divine service on the preceding Sabbath, and shall consist of all male persons above Twenty-one years of age, who shall be supporters of the ordinances of religion therein. The meeting shall appoint a Chairman and Secretary, from among their own number, and the proceedings shall be recorded in the Minute Book of the Managers.

XIII. At the annual meeting, the proceedings of the Managers for the past year shall be submitted for inspection, and approved of or disallowed, as shall seem proper ; the accounts of revenue and expenditure by the Managers shall be laid before them ; two new Managers shall be elected ; and all business requisite for the welfare of the congregation shall be transacted,—provided that nothing be done repugnant to this Constitution, or to the Laws of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland.

XIV. The Precentor shall be appointed by the Kirk Session, and the Church Officer by the Managers.

XV. In regard to all things not specified herein, the Laws, customs and usages of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, shall be followed;—and if any difference of opinion arise, as to the meaning or interpretation of any part of this Constitution, it shall be referred to the Presbytery of the bounds for advice and decision thereon, subject to appeal to the Synod, or other Supreme Court, whose deliverance shall be final.

